



DEBRA BOWEN

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“Three Strikes” Initiative Enters Circulation

“Three Strikes” Law. Sentencing. Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today announced that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for a measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General’s official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

“THREE STRIKES” LAW. SENTENCING. STATUTE. Prohibits increased sentencing terms for repeat felony offenders under new “Three Strikes” law except when current offense is a serious or violent felony. Authorizes re-sentencing under the new law for offenders serving indeterminate life sentences provided that the sentence was not imposed for a second strike. Provides that felons convicted of specified crimes, including murder, certain crimes involving firearm use, and certain sex or drug offenses, are not eligible for the benefits of the new law. Restricts Legislature’s authority to modify certain sentencing schemes or enhancements. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: Net state savings – primarily to prison operations – potentially in the tens of millions of dollars annually initially, increasing to several hundreds of millions of dollars annually within a decade. Unknown state savings on a one-time basis for capital outlay associated with prison construction that would otherwise be needed, potentially as much as one billion dollars in the long term. Increased state and county costs of potentially a few tens of millions of dollars annually for jail and court-related costs. (Initiative 07-0075.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1306 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 07-0075.

The proponent for this measure, Francis X. Courser, must collect signatures of 433,971 registered voters – the number equal to 5% of the total votes cast for governor in the 2006 gubernatorial election – in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 150 days to circulate petitions for this measure, meaning the signatures must be collected by May 12, 2008.

The initiative proponent can be reached at 1696 W. 11th Avenue, Escondido, California 92029. No phone number was provided.

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